



Maine Farmer.

EZERICK HOLMES, S. L. BOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man

Trial of Agricultural Implements.

We mentioned, last week, that there were two important exhibitions in contemplation in 1865, which Maine ought to take part in. These were, the International Exhibition to be held in Dublin (Ireland,) and a trial of implements proposed to be held somewhere in New York, under the direction of the New York State Agricultural Society. In 1861, such a trial was proposed by the Executive Committee of this Society, and a programme was made out, but the breaking out of the rebellion made it advisable to postpone it. That Society, we see by their *Journal*, are again making a move to carry this trial into effect during the coming summer. We hope they will this time consummate their arrangements and have a trial in some place of easy access, with fields and fixtures suitable for a fair and judicious trial of every kind of agricultural and horticultural implements that shall be brought forward and submitted for that purpose. We hope also, that they will take time enough to accomplish this with a view of doing the work thoroughly and faithfully, so that every implement and machine may be put to such tests as shall bring out its merits and demerits clearly and indisputably.

We are aware that this will be opening a wide door and involve a great deal of labor. But it is just what is wanted. The increase of new inventions of labor saving implements of agriculture, is gratifying, and every one should receive a fair investigation and impartial trial. Among these, all, valuable as they really are, there are many imperfections—many things that need improving. It should therefore be the duty of the committee not merely to say which of this or that class is best, but honestly state the merits of each and wherein they are deficient. This will require time and patient trial, and such should each implement receive.

According to the schedule published in the last *Journal*, the following are named as the implements to be tried—reapers, mowers, threshing machines, horse powers, plows. This last class includes a miscellaneous array of implements, probably meant to embody all that should be brought in and not belonging to the previously named classes. We think, however, the committee would find it an advantage to extend their classification more minutely, and then have a miscellaneous incidental class which should form a sort of an omnibus, in which should be embrac'd all the odds and ends and unclassable machinery that may be offered.

Should the trial be instituted, we hope that the inventors and manufacturers of Maine will be present and take their full part in the labor and in the display of implements which they get up. Our Board of Agriculture will meet before long. To them the interests of our State agricultural improvement is specially delegated, and although they are an advisory rather than a legislative or executive body, their counsels are highly respected and regarded, and we hope they will take these subjects under consideration and do what is in their power to have the State well represented in these two coming exhibitions. Whatever may be the results, let Maine be among the exhibitors and strive to run a successful race with the best of them.

Maine Horticultural and Pomological Society.

The annual meeting of this society was held in this city on Tuesday of last week, at which time the following officers were elected: President—Calvin Spaulding, Hallowell, with a Vice President from each county.

Recording Sec'y—Samuel Titcomb, Augusta.

Corresponding Sec'y—S. L. Boardman, Augusta.

Treasurer, Librarian and Collector—E. K. Butler, Hallowell.

Trustees—Warren Porval, Vassalboro'; E. A. Nason, Augusta'; N. Foster, Gardiner.

Standing Committee on Fruit—S. L. Goodale, Saco; J. W. North, Augusta; Francis Fuller, Winthrop; Albert Nuyes, Bangor.

A desultory conversation on the methods of preserving fruits was entered into by those present. Mr. Allen of Hallowell, stated that he had kept grapes good for one year, by packing them in rock maple saw dust. The wood, before being sawed, had been subjected to a heat of 100° for three months. Apples are best preserved by being packed in saw dust, or some material which excludes the air. Grapes are also kept for a great length of time—if evenly ripened—by placing them in layers of cotton, or paper. One objection, however, to the latter methods is that if one decays it imparts a disagreeable flavor to the others. To guard against this, grapes should be evenly ripened, and all of them which are packed away, as nearly as may be, of the same degree of maturity.

Legislative Farmer's Club.

The Legislature of Maine will soon assemble. It will bring together a large number of intelligent men—a considerable proportion of them being farmers—and representing nearly every town in the State. The business of the session, which will be one of much importance, will not be so pressing but what one evening of each week can be given to the consideration of matters relating to the husbandry of the State, and what we propose is this: That as early in the session as may be practicable, a Farmer's Club or Legislative Agricultural Society be organized for the discussion of practical farm subjects. The views and experiences of farmers residing in widely diverse portions of the State cannot be otherwise than valuable, and may add largely to our stock of practical knowledge upon subjects about which farmers most desire information. The Board of Agriculture holds its session early in January, and the interest usually excited by the meetings of the Board will be continued through the legislative session. We will say no more upon this at present, but hope the proper steps will be taken early in the session to carry successfully into operation the plan we have suggested. We shall take pleasure in reporting the proceedings for the benefit of our readers.

More Big Porkers, &c.

We add to our list the following: Mr. David Moore of Pittston, recently slaughtered a sow seven months old, which weighed 290 pounds. Samuel Brown of Wayne, slaughtered two shots Dec. 12th, which weighed 671 pounds, viz., one weighed 346, the other 434 pounds. They were eight months and seven days old. Capt. Daniel True of Wayne, slaughtered two, four months old, which weighed 920 pounds, viz., one 400 and the other 520. Mr. P. B. Haskell of Wayne, slaughtered a cow that weighed 775 pounds. She had 72 pounds of rough tallow after it was tried out. Mr. Haskell also slaughtered a heifer two years old, which weighed 553 pounds.

Kennebec Agricultural Society.

The Secretary of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society, D. Cargill, Esq., has forwarded to the reports of the awarding committee, with competitors' statements and other papers relating to the exhibition held this fall, which we should gladly publish if we had the room to do so. In most instances the reports of committees give little of general interest, and as we published an account of the fair at the time, we think it inadvisable to again publish the list of premiums. We find in the statements of committees much that is of value, and give place to the following, which will be found interesting to our readers. At another time we may publish more.

I. STATEMENT OF MOSES R. WENTWORTH, OF MODE OF PREPARING AND USING MUCK FOR FERTILIZING LANDS.

To the *Committee of the Kennebec County Agricultural Society on Composts*. The following is the method I practice in the preparation and use of muck on my farm in Winthrop, and which I find very beneficial.

It is a great question now that he has got his farm, to know what to do with it. He has no trouble in seeing what improvements are needed, or rather what would add to the value of the farm; but he does see difficulties in the way of making such as he would desire to make, and at the same time to keep the farm in a state of high improvement. He could spend money and labor, and would, perhaps, be willing to spend a reasonable amount in improvements upon the farm, if the expenditure would produce fair return in future.

His farm is not upon the sterile prairie, bought from the spring to one side or the other, and then wrenching the leg, or throwing it self down by exerting its force at an angle with the rest; and a person accustomed to handle the hand, the sheep should be drawn gently back until the disengaged hand can be placed in front of its neck. The crook is very convenient to reach out and draw a sheep from a number huddled by a dog or in a corner, without the shepherd's making a spring for it, and then putting it to rest to flight; and a person accustomed to handle the hand, the sheep should be drawn gently back until the disengaged hand can be placed in front of its neck. 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THE MAINE FARMER: AN

AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY

NEWSPAPER.

The War News of the Week.

The "agreeable march" of General Sherman across the State of Georgia, has reached its grand and appropriate consummation in the peaceful possession of Savannah, the commercial capital of the State. On Sunday (Christmas day) the President received a despatch from Gen. Sherman, as follows:

"SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 22, 1864.

To His Excellency President Lincoln:

I beg to present you a Christmas gift, the sum of six months of the date of subscription.

"These terms will be readily adhered to in all cases."

All payments made by subscribers to the Farmer will be credited in accordance with our new method of accounting.

The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

(Signed) W. T. SHERMAN, Maj. Gen."

A subscriber desiring to change the post office direction of his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has been previously sent, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

NOTICES.

Mr. JAS. STURDO is now on a collecting and canvassing tour in Cumberland County.

Mr. V. DARLING will call on subscribers in Hancock County during the present month.

Mr. J. W. FOSTER, a regularly authorized agent, will call upon subscribers of the Farmer in Franklin County during the months of December and January.

The Revival of the Militia System.

We listened the other day to a discussion between two venerable veterans, who never saw a battle field in their lives, but in old times wore epaulettes and trained three or four times a year, and wound of the campaign in the fall with a "general muster." They waxed eloquent about the good old times, and lamented the great failing off military enthusiasm and military discipline among the people from what it was in their young days. The repeat of the old fashioned militia law, was, in their eyes, a great blunder. We disagreed with them, and as we have always advocated that, except in cities where mobs sometimes need a little more active treatment than a police force could give them, the "training" system of our fathers was a useless expenditure of time, labor and money.

We obtained this belief when a boy, by listening to the remarks of a Colonel who was an active officer on the Canadian frontier during the war of 1812-15, with England. He then stated that he found by experience that a raw recruit who had never been in the ranks at all, was more easily disciplined, and came into the work sooner and more readily than one who had been through the common routine of country training three or four times a year, and a master to boot—the latter had many things to forget and many new lessons to learn, while the former had nothing of the kind to forget, and what he learned was correct and more easily retained in memory and practice. The results of the present war demonstrate that men from this State, who never trained at the "village green," nor shouldered a musket at the "word of command," until they enlisted into the service, have made as brave, as well disciplined, and as expert soldiers every way, as those from States where they have kept up the old militia system, and had their "May training" and their "fall trainings," and "military reviews," or "general musters," in addition.

Everybody knows they have. Hence, therefore, we have lost nothing, but in fact saved a great deal by discontinuing for so many years the tedious and burdensome old fashioned system. Yet, during almost every session of our Legislature, a great deal of time has been spent in the effort to renew the old militia laws. We know of some ambitious souls who intend to move in the matter again this winter. It will be done under the plea of patriotism, national defence, frontier danger, &c. Now we yield to none of them in patriotism or desire for national defence, or protection of our frontier. But there is a better way for defending the nation or protecting the frontier than organizing the people in the old system, and compelling the people of every country town and village to turn out four or five days in a year to do military duty under officers as green in military tactics as themselves. Build fortifications and garrison them wherever they may be needed, and tax the people's property to pay the expense. You will then have reliable troops to ward off any danger that may threaten or actually come.

This may be thought too expensive, but if you should count up the cost of the old fashioned system, you will find that to be full as expensive, and wholly, or almost useless. We never had the statistics at hand, or we would give you the figures and let you judge for yourselves. We mean the cost of those who actually performed the labor of training under command. If the time and expenses of the lookers-on could be also taken into the account, as they should be, as being actually, though not necessarily, a part of the system, it would quadruple the cost. Both systems have had a fair trial in our State, and the results as demonstrated in the present war prove that the discontinuance of the old system was a wise move, and a return to it would be very unwise.

DEATH OF MR. DAYTON. Intelligence has been received of the sudden death, in Paris of Hon. W. L. Dayton, American Minister to France. He was visiting an American lady at the hotel de Lenore, when he was seized with an apoplectic fit, and died before medical assistance could be summoned. He was a native of New Jersey about sixty years of age, and has long been distinguished as a lawyer and statesman. He served several years in both branches of Congress, was the Republican candidate for Vice President in 1856, and on the election of Mr. Lincoln was appointed Minister to France. The funeral was attended by the French Foreign Minister Drouyn de l'Isay and by the whole diplomatic body. The Emperor was represented by the Baron de Lajus and Prince Jerome Bonaparte by Gen. Franconi. The church was crowded by French and Americans. Mr. Seward, followed a discourse eulogistic of the deceased, and said the cordiality which exists between France and America is in a great measure owing to his thorough uprightness and manliness and his courteous and conciliatory manners. Mr. Dayton's only son was chief mourner, and he was supported by Mr. Pennington Secretary of Legation, Mr. Bigelow, U. S. Consul, and Mr. Aspinwall of New York. His remains will be brought to this country for interment.

BANGOR SANITARY FAIR. To the long list of fairs which have been held in most of our leading cities, for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission, is now to be added that of Bangor, whose fair closed on Saturday last, after a success unparalleled in the State, and we believe in New England, excepting Boston. This fair, as has been the case with others, was chiefly managed by the ladies who have for weeks worked incessantly to make it a successful and pleasant affair. We learn that nearly all the articles contributed were sold, the entire proceeds amounting to the handsome sum of over fifteen thousand dollars. We think such a fair—though upon a smaller scale of course—might be gotten up in this city the present winter, and believe it would be in every way successful. Shall it be done?

Dr. Charles T. Jackson at a recent meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, announced the discovery of an inexhaustible mine of emery in Massachusetts. It was found in the town of Chester, in Hampden county, within three-fourths of a mile of the Western railroad, and twenty-seven miles from the Springfield armories and work shops. To those acquainted with the use of emery in manufactures, to manufacturers and scientific men, the importance of this discovery is at once apparent. It is a saying in England that "a mine of emery is worth more to a manufacturing people than many mines of gold."

THE Kennebec Journal states that the new milk condensing factory at Livermore Falls, which is under the superintendence of J. Bridge, Esq., of this city, is in full tide of success. About one thousand quarts of milk are condensed per day, in addition to a large amount of cider. The former article is in great demand for army and navy use.

HOME LECTURES. The citizens of Hallowell are in the habit of giving home lectures; the first of which will be delivered on Thursday evening of next week, by Rev. Mr. McKenzie of this city.

Read the prospectus of the New England Petroleum Company in another column. It is in the hands of first class men.

BURNING OF THE PORTLAND AND KENNEBEC DEPOT.

We have to record another destructive fire in this city. On Thursday morning last, about four o'clock, fire broke out in a small room in the northeast corner of the freight and passenger depot of the Portland and Kennebunk Railroad on Commercial street. A violent wind was blowing and the weather was intensely cold, and before the alarm which was promptly given by one of our city-watchmen could be effectively responded to, the entire building was wrapped in flames. In less than an hour, the depot, and its contents, consisting of four passenger cars, and the "dummy" car and engine, one baggage car and seven freight cars, were completely consumed. Five freight cars, included in the above, loaded with valuable merchandise, and destined for Skowhegan and intermediate towns up river, had been detained here by the snow of the previous day. The flames also communicated with a building owned by the widow of the late Stephen Higgins, situated on the embankment west of the depot and occupied as a bowling-alley. This was also destroyed. The Stanley House, and the blocks of brick stores on the west side of Water street, separated from the depot only by a narrow thoroughfare, for a time were in great danger; but fortunately the flames were borne by the wind past these buildings, and an extensive conflagration, which would have involved an immense destruction of property was averted. It was also a fortunate circumstance that the roofs of the buildings in the immediate vicinity, were thickly covered with snow, preventing the flying flakes of fire from obtaining dangerous lodgment. The fire department and many citizens were promptly at hand to render all the assistance possible, but so intense was the cold that the engines proved of little service in the emergency. It is not known how the fire originated, although we believe there are no suspicions of incendiarism.

The loss to the Company is estimated at \$50,000, of which amount \$25,000 was insured on the rolling stock and freight in transit, and \$3000 on cars, a large supply of ammunition and material of war, three steamers, and 33,000 balls of cotton safely stored in warehouses. The torpedoes and other obstructions in the river and harbor were being removed, and probably none had damage done to the city, and the inhabitants, numbering 20,000 souls, were found quiet and well-disposed. The captures include 800 prisoners, 150 guns, 13 locomotives in good order, 190 cars, a large supply of ammunition and material of war, three steamers, and 33,000 balls of cotton safely stored in warehouses. The torpedoes and other obstructions in the river and harbor were being removed, and probably none had damage done to the city, and the inhabitants, numbering 20,000 souls, were found quiet and well-disposed. The captures include 800

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL

The Record of the War.

Gen. Thomas' Splendid Victory in Tennessee—The Rebels Binely Defeated at Murfreesboro—The Continued Retreat and Pursuit of Hood.

NASHVILLE, Sunday, Dec. 18.—Midnight. Gen. Thomas' victory over Hood magnifies as details are known. We have now nearly six thousand rebel prisoners. Our wounded in the two days' fight number about fifteen hundred, killed about two hundred.

Gen. Thomas is now south of Franklin, pursuing the retreating rebels.

There was an attack on Murfreesboro' on Thursday by Forest and Bain, but the rebels were badly beaten, and it is believed that Forrest was killed. Our loss was fifteen hundred, all of whom are in our hands.

Breckinridge has certainly crossed the Cumberland Mountains with his forces, and is trying to join Hood. His situation is precarious.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 19. Our forces advanced this morning about 8 o'clock, and captured a body of prisoners, estimated at 1,000 men. Among them are one General and a number of mounted officers. The capture was made between Brentwood, ten miles south of this city, and Harpeth river.

An order for 1,000 men to guard the prisoners has just been received by Gen. Miller, commander of this post. They are expected to reach here during the day.

The total number of rebels captured yesterday was three columns one Lieutenant colonel, seven majors, 61 captains, 157 lieutenants, and two surgeons; also three brigadier generals, viz: Johnson, Smith and Rucker. All the prisoners are confined in a stone quarry some few hundred yards from the capitol. The penitentiary and all the public building are full. Half the prisoners are barefooted.

The rebels are undoubtedly attacking the rear of the rebels.

The total number of prisoners captured in the two days' fight is estimated at 6,500. Hood's loss in men cannot be less than 15,000 since he advanced from Columbia toward Nashville. Gen. Thomas is determined to give battle again and has ordered the pontoons to be moved to Franklin, and the rebels are to be driven into the stream between this city and Columbia.

Gen. Hardee, who has left Franklin yesterday, reports the rebel forces in full retreat. Hatch's cavalry attacked the rebel rear guard Saturday, capturing a large number of prisoners. The 4th corps crossed Harpeth river Sunday morning, and Franklin.

Franklin is full of wounded rebels; over 3,000 were left there by the church and public buildings, and have been taken for hospital on the 15th.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. The Times' Nashville despatch says Gen. Thomas is pursuing the enemy to Duck River. We have nearly all Hood's artillery. All the rivers are high, and the bridges in front of Hood are destroyed. We have captured 30,000 rebels, including 20,000 wounded at Franklin. We have also taken four Major-generals, Hood had 65 guns, 54 of which we have.

The rebel Gen. Johnson says their loss at the battle of Franklin was 5,000, while ours was 1,900.

Gen. Stoneman has given Breckinridge a clearing out in East Tennessee, near Virginia line killing, wounding and capturing a large number, and driving out most of his prisoners.

General E. McCook is after the rebel General Lyon in Kentucky, and he cannot escape.

Murfreesboro', Bridgeport, Stevenson, Chattanooga and Knoxville are all right.

Song of Sherman's Grand March—The Capture of Fort McAllister and Investment of Atlanta.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. The Herald's Fort McAllister correspondence says when Gen. Sherman arrived in front of Savannah he had a drove of 1,200 cattle, though he started with only 200 and had fed his army on full rations on a march of 300 miles. He also gathered on the way over 700 wagons, which he has now again got him and wagons is to embarrass him. His army during a considerable portion of the march extended over a breadth of country 60 miles wide and 40 miles at times intervening between the right and left wings. The whole loss of men from wounds, sickness, captures, stragglers and all other causes up to the time of arriving in front of Savannah, was 1,000. The average daily march was 12 miles.

When Sherman was invested the city was unprepared for a siege and could not hold out more than a few days. Gen. Sherman's corps holds all the approaches on the north side of the city, including all the railroads leading out of the town. Gen. Howard's corps connects with his right and swings around to the Ogeechee River at Fort McAllister, which is now held.

The Herald's correspondent says that at half past four on the morning of the 14th Gen. Hazen placed his division in position before Fort McAllister, with another division of the 15th corps as a support. The order was given, when his gallant division marched at double-quick step forward, penetrated an abatis surrounding the work, ploughed through a ditch and scaled the parapets of the fort, which was held by the rebels under a hot fire, which, while it cut down many, failed to check their advance. Most of the garrison, bewildered by the sudden sweep of our veterans, surrendered in haste, but others stood by their guns and were bayoneted or cut down. Not over three minutes elapsed after our veterans leaped over the parapet ere their cheering announced their work done. Our captures were 200 prisoners, 21 heavy guns and a large quantity of ordnance and subsidiary supplies.

From New Orleans—Sixty-Six Blockade Runners.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 13, via Cairo Dec. 20. Advice from the blockading squadron of Galveston state that during the week ending the 9th inst., six blockade runners were captured on the coast of Texas.

Death of Hazen—The Rebels Crossing Duck River—Sixty-Six Guns Captured.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 20. P. M. A very important and interesting combination movement, in which the garrisons are co-operating with the army, is reported to have commenced, having for its object the capturing of the Fort Royal on the river of the Hills, the Tennessee river.

Gen. Schofield was in Columbus yesterday morning. Our total loss in wounded in the Thursday and Friday, reach but little over 2,000.

The Expedition Against Wilmington—The Rebel Official Despatches.

The Richmond papers of yesterday state that on the 23d twenty-six vessels of the Wilmington fleet had reappeared.

The disputed Gen. B. E. G., as published in the New York Tribune, is as follows:

WILMINGTON, Dec. 23. Twenty-six vessels of the Federal fleet reappeared this morning. There has been no change since my last dispatch.

The latest intelligence received from that expedition.

E. M. STANTON, Major General.

STEAMER GOLDEN GATE—Savannah, River, 7 P. M., Dec. 22.

To Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant, and Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck.

The rebel honor to report that I have just returned from Gen. Sherman's staff as a bearer of despatches from Gen. Sherman to you, and also a message to the President.

The city of Savannah was occupied on the morning of the 21st, and that on the preceding afternoon and night Hardee escaped with the main body of his infantry and light artillery, blowing up the iron clad and navy yard. He enumerates as captured, 800 prisoners, 150 guns, 13,000 men, 1,000 horses, 2,000 carts, 100 wagons, 300 pieces of ammunition and material of war, 3 steamers and 32,000 bales of stores. No mention is made of the present position of Hardee's force, which has been estimated at about 15,000.

The despatches of General Sherman and Gen. Foster are as follows:

To His Excellency President Lincoln:

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 23, 1864. I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah, 130 guns, locomotives, Cars, Steamers and 33,000 bales of Cotton.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, Dec. 25.—8 P. M. {

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The city of Savannah was occupied on the morning of the 21st, and that on the preceding afternoon and night Hardee escaped with the main body of his infantry and light artillery, blowing up the iron clad and navy yard. He enumerates as captured, 800 prisoners, 150 guns, 13,000 men, 1,000 horses, 2,000 carts, 100 wagons, 300 pieces of ammunition and material of war, 3 steamers and 32,000 bales of stores. No mention is made of the present position of Hardee's force, which has been estimated at about 15,000.

The despatches of General Sherman and Gen. Foster are as follows:

To His Excellency President Lincoln:

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 23, 1864. I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah, 130 guns, locomotives, Cars, Steamers and 33,000 bales of Cotton.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, Dec. 25.—8 P. M. {

To Major General—

STEAMER GOLDEN GATE—Savannah, River, 7 P. M., Dec. 22.

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